

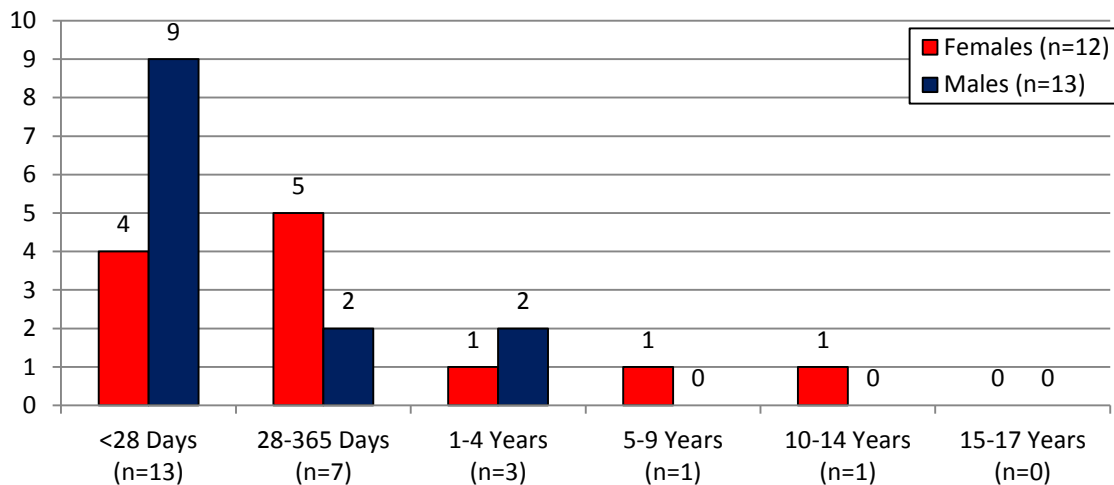


2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either La Paz or Mohave Counties. During 2011, there were 25 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of La Paz (n=3) and Mohave (n=22). Males accounted for 52 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=13) and females also accounted for 50 percent (n=12). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=25)**



Deaths among American Indian children were over-represented in La Paz and Mohave Counties in 2010. American Indian children comprised seven percent of the population but 8 percent of the deaths (n=2). White, Non-Hispanic children comprised 65 percent of the population and 64 percent of the fatalities (n=16). The deaths of Hispanic children were also over-represented, they comprised 25 percent of the population and 28 percent of the fatalities (n=7).

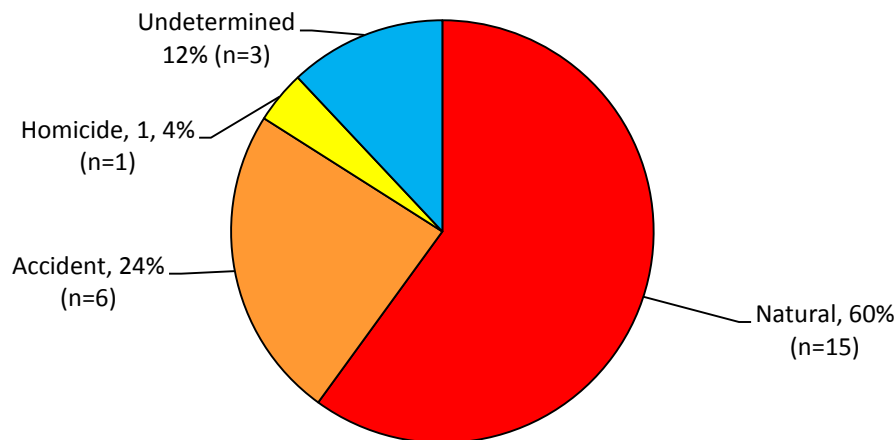
CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Sixty percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=15), 24 percent were due to accidents (n=6), 12 percent were due to undetermined manners (n=3), one death was due to homicide. There were no suicide deaths in these counties in 2011. Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,
La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=25)**



Two children died in motor vehicle crashes, one child died by fire or burn and eight children died from prematurity. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011 (n=25)						
Cause	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Total
Medical*	8	1	0	0	0	9
Prematurity	7	0	0	0	1	8
MVC/Transport	0	2	0	0	0	2
Suffocation	0	1	0	0	0	1
Drowning	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bunt/Sharp Force Trauma	0	0	0	1	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	2	2
Fire/Burn	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	15	6	0	1	3	25
*Excluded Prematurity and SIDS						

Among the two motor vehicle crash deaths, both children were passengers. One child was in the back seat and the location of the other child is unknown.

PREVENTABILITY

Child fatality review teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 48 percent of the deaths among La Paz County and Mohave County children could have been prevented (n=12).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In La Paz and Mohave Counties, use of drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for eleven child deaths (42 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for three deaths (12 percent). Co-sleeping was an identified factor in 1 death (4 percent) and lack of mental health treatment was a factor in 3 deaths (12 percent). Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of La Paz and Mohave Counties. More than one factor may have been involved in each death.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Substance use	11	42%
Lack of supervision	3	12%
Lack of mental health treatment	3	12%
Co-sleeping	1	4%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in La Paz and Mohave Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2011, 25 child residents of La Paz or Mohave Counties died, and 783 children residents of the other 13 counties died. La Paz and Mohave Counties had a crude rate of 55.8 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a higher rate than the remainder of the state (49.1 deaths per 100,000 residents).

La Paz and Mohave Counties had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Forty-eight percent of the deaths of La Paz County and Mohave County children could have been prevented (n=12), compared to just over one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (34 percent, n=268).

Medical conditions, such as cancer and asthma, were the leading cause of child deaths in La Paz and Mohave Counties (36 percent) and for the remainder of Arizona (42 percent). Prematurity accounted for 32 percent of child deaths in La Paz and Mohave counties, more than the remainder of the state (24 percent). MVC/Transport deaths accounted for 8 percent of child deaths in La Paz and Mohave counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for La Paz and Mohave Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011			
La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=25)		Arizona, Excluding La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=783)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical*	36%	Medical*	42%
Prematurity	32%	Prematurity	24%
Undetermined	8%	Undetermined	5%
MVC/Transport	8%	MVC/Transport	8%
Suffocation	4%	Suffocation	6%
Drowning	4%	Drowning	4%
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	4%	Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	3%
Hanging	0%	Hanging	3%
Fire/Burn	4%	Fire/Burn	<1%
*Does not include SIDS or Prematurity			

In La Paz and Mohave Counties, the largest percentages of deaths were due to medical manners (60 percent), which is lower than the remainder of Arizona (65 percent). The second largest percentages of deaths were due to accidents (24 percent), which was higher than the rest of Arizona (19 percent). Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for La Paz and Mohave Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona 2011			
La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=25)		Arizona, Excluding La Paz and Mohave Counties (n=783)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	60%	Natural	65%
Accident	24%	Accident	19%
Suicide	0%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	4%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	12%	Undetermined	6%
Unknown	0%	Unknown	<1%